

# THE BEE

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## REGISTER VERNON AND THE ASSASSINS.

Apropos the editorial in The Bee of last week regarding the desire of one element of high officials to destroy another this paper seems to have spoken almost with the voice of prophesy, since the past week brought exchanges to our desk containing insidious attacks upon a prominent official.

This official is Register Vernon who for months has been relentlessly pursued by a set of jealous political vampires who know no rest day or night when filled with rage at men who are incapable of indorsing their littleness. The hounding of a man who holds the ranking office given to the race has been most disappointing to those who believe in decency and The Bee will uncover them that the world may know the truth.

First, they tried to make him an anti-administration man but he did so much for President-elect Taft before and after the convention that they subsided on this score. But they filled the streets with their mouthings until the campaign opened. They said he would not be in the campaign and yet he was for weeks under the direction of the national committee speaking from New England to Colorado—this he did while others were walking up and down Pennsylvania avenue doing nothing.

The campaign over and the same low, contemptible conduct goes on, misrepresentation and deceit to which the register apparently pays no attention. The Bee, however, responds to the request of many who know this gang and know their methods, to let the world know the truth. The people admire Register Vernon. He is an able man and has made good in his position. His addresses cover a wide range of thought. His latest utterances at the local Business League where he endorsed this great work is meeting with favorable comment all over the city. He was the only high official who found time to assist President Pittman in the effort he is making to build up a strong local League.

The Bee desires to call attention to the latest turn the fight has taken—the sending out of matter to the newspapers to discredit the Register. This paper has received anonymous letters and similar communications and knows who is behind this entire fight. First comes a report that Register Vernon will resign soon and return to his school, etc. This is a deliberate falsehood and the author knows it. Second, on the heels of a plea for harmony comes the report that Register Vernon is opposing a fellow office-holder for reappointment. People around Washington laugh at such talk—so silly. But the serious side is that those not knowing would think him the aggressor, but we all know that he is being fought and is doing nothing against any of these men. 'Tis done to make

enemies for Mr. Vernon. Why should he bother about their jobs? Does he not hold the highest place? His name is on the currency of the greatest government in the world. Another story sent out as to the so-called statements of a young man just from Kansas, is to the effect that Mr. Vernon has little strength in Kansas. The Bee finds that no young colored man has just come from Kansas. That falsehood was patched up and sent out from here.

The newspapers mean well, they are simply imposed upon by an untruthful Washington correspondent, whom the people of Washington neither respect or believe.

Mr. Vernon's term is not nearly out and when he takes his second term, which he can get, and we trust he will accept, such stories will certainly end—let us hope.

As to his political influence, some others would be glad if they had it. Backed by the great African Methodist Episcopal Church; enjoying the friendship of its Bishops who with him so heartily supported President-elect Taft; we wager his church will see these tricksters when they accomplish their nefarious schemes;... enough for this.

Again the article accuses Mr. Vernon of opposing his assistant with whom his relations are most cordial. The object again is to destroy his popularity. 'Tis a deep laid scheme and we expose it now that all lovers of decency may understand. May the honest, fair citizens of Washington and the country know the truth. We trust men like Dr. Washington, the Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and others understand these treacherous men.

The Bee knows who is at the bottom of it all and if this does not cease names will be called and reasons will be given. We shall regret to go further. We hope for the sake of decency and right that this contemptible misrepresentation and low cunning will cease. The race demands it. Enough is enough.

...MR. TAFT'S SPEECH...  
The address of President-elect Taft to the colored citizens of Atlanta, Georgia, should be food for thought for them. Colored Americans must come to the conclusion that they must be up and doing if they wish to be recognized factors in the American body politic.

Mr. Taft is sincere. He doesn't mean by that speech that he has deserted the colored man and neither does he mean that he has or will surrender to the prejudices of the South. He means that good citizens will be appointed to positions regardless of the color of their skin. They must not only be good citizens, but they must be qualified to fill the positions for which they apply, and be recommended by the best citizens of the place in which they live.

Mr. Taft has given out that he will be the president of all the people, regardless of nationality or politics. The Bee has the most implicit confidence in the honesty and integrity of Mr. Taft and his high appreciation of colored Americans.

What is the colored man south doing to commend himself to administration powers?

What is he doing to make himself a factor?

He should know that seeking an office without the necessary qualifications tends to degrade rather than elevate him. Politics should be an incident and not the direct object of his citizenship.

In this connection, the propaganda of Dr. Booker T. Washington and Dr. James E. Sheppard, of Durham, North Carolina, is the Non Nobis Solum.

These two educators have no selfish motives. Their propaganda is for their people. There has been too much selfishness

and personal aggrandizement among many of the so-called representatives of the colored people which have been the cause of the set back to colored Americans.

The Bee is still of the opinion that Mr. Taft means to do his duty as he sees it. He will enforce the Constitution as he sees and construes it. If Mr. Taft's declarations mean any thing, they mean that the color line will find no quarters under his administration.

He means also that colored men, white men, and all other kinds of men must be qualified and competent to hold office. The color of a man's skin will be no passport for his appointment to office. Mr. Taft's ancestry knew no man by the color of skin.

This is the record and the character of the President-elect today. If Mr. Taft is able to convince the South that obedience to the laws of the United States will promote the citizens of that section, why not endorse his policy? His speech should be well digested before we come to a prejudiced conclusion.

## A SOCIAL ROW.

Just as The Bee predicted, that there would be a social row for the social leadership. Dr. Bruce Evens, of the Inaugural Welcome Club announced some time ago that the citizens of Washington would meet and suggest plans for the entertainment of visitors during the week of the inauguration, and the moment that he committed this grave offence an effort would be made to off set his plans by the establishment of another social organization. Why have two receptions is the question that is being asked. Why resurrect the Monacan Club?

Four years ago there were three distinct social public functions, namely, the Monacan Club, the Inaugural Welcome Club and the Native Washingtonians.

From the report elsewhere in The Bee, the split was precipitated by the nomination of Mr. James A. Cobb by Mr. Robert H. Terrell, who is charged with having attempted to control the Mu-So-Lit Club. Just how much truth there is to this charge The Bee is unable to state. But it is a fact, however, that certain members of the Mu-So-Lit Club have withdrawn and joined the Monacan Club.

What the out come will be time will tell.

## NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE

The local Negro Business League is a fixture in this city. Mr. W. Sidney Pittman is endeavoring to organize the Negro Business Men into an organization. Every business man in the community should connect himself with this organization.

Heretofore the organization was burdened with people who followed no business whatever. They connected themselves with the organization for personal gain. The organization invites all persons of good character and who are conducting a business in the community.

It is surprising to know the number of business men and women in this city. President Pittman, with the assistance of others, means to have a strong organization.

## TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT.

The only charge that Senator Ben Tillman makes against the president is that he promoted a colored man to a \$1,600 clerkship. It is a "tempest in a teapot," and the president's wife has a messenger on the rolls as a printer. Tillman's charge reminds The Bee of a man under water gasping for breath. In both cases the president is condemned for doing acts of kindness to his fellow man. The charges are too ridiculous to discuss.

## INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

In another column of The Bee

will be seen and read with interest an article by Dr. Booker T. Washington on Industrial Education. The Bee intends to publish the entire article and it suggests that it be read by all intelligent colored Americans. The article contains some good advice and important historical facts. Dr. Washington is not only a speaker, but a writer of profound ability.

## CHANCE FOR ANOTHER NEGRO BANDMASTER IN THE ARMY

The War Department announces that Chief Musician George F. Tyrrell, of the band of the 10th Cavalry, now stationed in the Philippines, has been transferred to the band of the 15th Cavalry (white) and ordered with that organization to Fort Meyer, Va., near this city.

This is the first transfer of this kind made under the President's recent order, which looks finally to having colored leaders of the bands for the four colored regiments. As vacancies occur in the position of Chief Musician of white bands, the white leaders of colored bands will be transferred to fill them and colored leaders will be appointed to the colored bands.

In June last, Elbert Williams, formerly bandmaster at Tuskegee Institute, was appointed Chief Musician of the 25th Infantry. A short time ago, Carl Cungi, chief musician of the 9th Cavalry, was retired, and his place, it is understood, has been taken by James A. Thompson, a colored man who has been serving for a long time as assistant leader. With the assignment of a colored chief musician to the vacancy created by the transfer of Chief Tyrrell, the only white leader remaining will be W. O. Thompson, now with the 24th Infantry at Madison Barracks, New York. In all this excellent work, the "fine Italian hand" of Emmett J. Scott appears in glowing colors.

## DR. CORROTHERS.

The religious meetings that are held in Galbraith Church, Dr. S. L. Corrothers, pastor, are the largest and best attended that have ever been held in that church. There have never been such crowds attending these services before. Dr. Corrothers has certainly got the people with him. As a religious orator his equal cannot be found. His sermons are effective and convincing to his hearers.

Dr. Corrothers may have his faults, but, there is no man in the pulpit who is appreciated by his people, more than this well-known pulpit orator. Galbraith church should keep him as long as possible, or until it is impossible for him to remain.

Ben Tillman threatens the president. It is only a threat. He should clear himself of the charges against him.

Director R. E. Ralph is winning popular praise in the conduct of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Some people will kick their friends while they are going down the hill. A day of retribution will surely come.

Let the pension bill become a law.

The Bee leads and all others follow.

Have The Bee mailed to your address at once.

Everybody should push the teachers pension bill.

Rumor has it that Judge Ankum will succeed Judge Kimball.

Judge Kimball has returned. Evidenced by his presence in the District Police Court.

During the absence of Judge Kimball there was a holiday in the workhouse.

## INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Continued from first page

or less dominated by the notion that they were begun to continue and finish the work that had been incidentally begun by the Civil War. They felt it was their mission to free the slaves. The war had brought these slaves physical freedom; the schools were to give them moral and intellectual freedom. Calhoun had said that if the time ever came when a Negro could master the intricacies of the Greek language he would admit that he had been wrong in his notions about slavery. The schools established directly after the war were eager, apparently, to take up the challenge. They wanted to prove the capacity of the Negro to study and learn everything that the white man had studied and learned.

It had been said of the Negro in slavery that he was intellectually inferior to the white man; that he was unable to learn the things that the white man had learned. Consciously or unconsciously the desire to complete his emancipation, in the way I have indicated, influenced very largely the work of these other schools.

I do not wish to lessen or disparage in any way the importance of the work that was accomplished by these first Negro schools. The work was necessary. I am convinced that the most precious gift that freedom brought to the Negro, the thing that has helped him more than anything to realize that he was actually free, has been the opportunity given him to learn to read. All this, as I have said, was in the direction of emancipating the Negro; it gave him his moral and intellectual freedom; but it did not actually fit him to live in the new world which emancipation had brought him. This important task was first taken up in a practical way by industrial schools.

Let me illustrate a little further some of the ways in which some of the schools and colleges founded directly after the war failed to prepare their students for the actual life that was before them. It was the idea of the men who founded the Negro colleges directly after the war that it was necessary and important to educate men and women to be the leaders and teachers of their race. No doubt it was important that the men and women who were to be the leaders of the race should have the very highest and best education that it was possible to give them, but there were a great many things, as we can see now, that they might have and should have learned that would have been more valuable than the little smattering of Greek and Latin that they obtained.

For instance, the men who became the political leaders of the race during the reconstruction period needed to know less the languages than they did the political history of Greece, of Rome, and of Europe. In all of these countries there had been slavery, and every state of Europe had, at some time in its history, been compelled to face the social, the political, and the economical problems that grew out of the transition of its laboring class from a condition of slavery, in some form or other, to a condition of freedom. But the Freedmen in the Negro colleges had no opportunity to study these things. They learned the outward form of the Greek and Latin language, but they learned very little of the history that was behind the language and behind the literature which they studied.

The young colored men who entered the colleges right after the war were not prepared to learn these things, even if the colleges had been prepared to teach them. They were not prepared because they knew at that time almost nothing about their own life; almost nothing about the problems which beset them on every hand. Not knowing these things they were not prepared to interpret the history and understand the significance of what they learned regarding other people who had passed through similar periods of transition. More pressing than all else for the masses of the Negro people directly after the war was the need of learning to work as free men for wages. As I have frequently said in my talks to the masses of my people, the Negro had been worked in slavery for two hundred and fifty years; it was necessary that he should learn to work in freedom. It has taken some time for the masses of the Negro people to learn among other things, the necessity of saving and of

thrift. The idea that these things could be taught directly and specifically in school had occurred to but few people when schools were opened for Negroes.

It is difficult for anyone who has not himself had the experience to understand how starnge and new the world into which freedom introduced the Negro was. The reading of books, for instance, opened all at once to him a vast number of new ideas which it was not easy for him to understand, because he could not easily connect them with the ideas with which he had been familiar in his previous life. In this new world everything seemed at first strange and even fantastic, and it was inevitable that the Negro people should for a number of years be compelled to grope about for an experiment. It was necessary to touch things and handle things, in order to learn their relative values. It was inevitable, too, that under such circumstances they should frequently mistake the shadow for the substance; that they should have to learn all over again, in some cases, what things were real and what things were unreal in this world to which they had entered. It is this condition of things which accounts for the many incongruities which you could have observed and may still sometimes observe in the life of the Negro since emancipation. One of the most pathetic sights that I ever saw was a three-hundred-dollar rose-wood piano in a little country school in the black belt, where four-fifths of the people own no land and where the majority of them live in rented one-room cabins and mortgage their crops and all their household goods every year for food on which to live from one harvest to another.

All this will illustrate how important it was and is that the Negro boy and girl should be made to feel that they are dealing in school with real things. For instance, the majority of the young men who come to our school at Tuskegee have lived for fourteen or fifteen years of their life in the country districts. Their whole mental horizon has been bounded by the little country community in which they lived. They have been surrounded by a people whose traditions go no farther back than slavery. Their earliest years were spent sitting on the front doorstep holding a baby in their arms while their fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers were working in the field.

(To be Continued)

## HONORS FOR PRESIDENT SINGLETON

Mr. Walter J. Singleton was installed for the second time on the evening of the 6th as president of the Young Men's Protective League, one of the strongest fraternal organizations in the District. As a testimonial of his efficient services as the official head of the League, Mr. Singleton was presented with a handsome silver-mounted gavel. Sergeant-at-Arms A. L. Jackson made a fitting presentation speech paying a merited tribute to Mr. Singleton as an officer and a man. A group of twenty-six friends then brought forward a magnificent stand of flowers, arranged in the form of a horse-shoe, about four feet high.

Mr. Singleton was nearly taken off his feet with surprise at this evidence of the affection of his comrades and responded with difficulty to the unexpected honors showered upon him. President Singleton's annual report for the year ending December 31, showed the following—which all will agree indicates a financial and general health unusual for a purely beneficial and fraternal body like the Young Men's Protective League:

Total receipts of the year, \$4,124.80; expenditures for the year, \$3,619.09; death claims paid, \$1,798; sick benefits paid, \$1,237.75; received from assessments, \$2,047.50; net gain from assessments, \$249.50; gain for the year, \$505.71; balance on hand, December 31, 1908, \$6,256.35. New members added during the year, 86; dropped, 21; rejected, 2; reinstated, 5; total membership to date, 597. Receipts from excursion, \$247.00.

Congratulations from Mr. Singleton's administration are in order.

Read The Bee.

## HOTEL MACEO.

When visiting New York City, stop at the Hotel Maceo, 215 West 53rd Street, corner Broadway. Steam heated. Telephone, 803, Columbus.

E. F. Thomas, Prop.